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The Current

Green River Community College

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March 11, 2011



HIV, racist slurs and wheelchair basketball - Student Life puts on Diversity Week.

Page 4

Gary Taylor, drama instructor, convicted of voyeurism in King County court.

Page 11

The money game; how budgets influence community college sports.

Page 18

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Reporting & writing,
photography & video

Campus



On the inside: "His beautiful writing cannot be forgotten - even if you would, at times, like to."

Lacey Steward, page 8



www.thecurrentonline.net

Student Life put on the annual Clubs Fair on March 3. Over two dozen Green River clubs hosted booths that students could visit, and the band Alma Desnuda performed for attendees. For a slideshow, visit our website.

Sun, spiders and other stories from Down Under

This is the fourth of four installments that will be published in *The Current* this quarter. Text by Bruce Haulman, history instructor and a supervisor on the trip. All quotes are from students on the trip. A full account can be found on our website: www.thecurrentonline.net

This is a day-by-day account of students in the Australia-New Zealand Study Abroad Program. The group left Seattle on Jan. 4 for Melbourne, Australia where we will be for four weeks with one week to travel before leaving for Auckland, New Zealand, where we will be for four weeks with one week to travel. We return home on March 12, in time for spring term.

This is the eleventh year of the Green River Australia-New Zealand Study Abroad Program. Nearly 300 students have participated in the program and have returned with a new appreciation for these two island nations on the other side of the world.

Sunday Feb. 20



Stuart Kruidenier - "My favorite day in NZ was swimming with the sharks at the aquarium. Aside from observing sharks, we got to see stingrays and other beautiful fish from the safety of our tank."

Monday Feb. 21

Rangitoto is the most recent volcano in the 50-volcano Auckland Volcano Field. It erupted only 600 years ago and had its last active phase 250 years ago. Rangitoto Island is an off-shore island preserve, and the world's largest remaining putakawa forest. The cone is 725 meters high, and there are numerous caves around the island.

Johanna Siler - "Saturday

bungee jumped. Then jumped again, backwards. Then we won the rugby game! Sunday I swam with sharks. Monday I climbed a volcano and explored lava caves. What's next New Zealand?"

Jessie Oliver - "Sweetest trip, Rangitoto! We went in volcanic caves so deep that no one had been there before. I felt so adventurous. The island was amazing and beautiful, and, although the hike was hard, I enjoyed every minute of it!"



Thursday Feb. 24

"Once Were Warriors" is a hard-hitting film about violence and alcohol in urban Maori families and the different ways each mem-

ber of the family deals with the poverty and dysfunctional family. This is not an easy film to watch, but it has great insights into the issues confronted by urban Maoris.

Friday Feb. 25

A magnificent sunny day to visit a unique, off-shore sanctuary island, where New Zealand biologists and volunteers have worked to establish sustainable populations of endangered and threatened native birds. Tiri Tiri has been so successful that birds are now being translocated back to mainland areas in an attempt to re-establish them in their traditional habitats.



Shannon Beach - "We

went to Tiri Tiri Matangi Island, the weather was perfect and the island was very secluded. We saw a lot of interesting birds, one of the Takahe named Greg is famous for unzipping people's bags and stealing their lunch!"

Saturday Feb. 26



(Bilbo Baggins' Home)

Courtney Foxworthy - "We did the coolest roadtrip and sightseeing adventure to Hobbiton. We took loads of pictures on the LOTR set and even got to see the new Hobbit movie set being built. We then headed down to the Waitamo Caves, where we put on wet suits and rafted through the glow-worm caves."

Friday Mar. 4

Ashley Henry - "My time in New Zealand is one to remember. I have learned so much about the people and the culture and am excited to learn more on my own. I would never trade the experience for anything in the world."

Today, groups began checking out of Mount Albert Lodge, storing luggage, and heading off for places like Samoa, Rorotonga, The Bay of Islands and Queenstown for a week of independent travel in New Zealand and the South Pacific!



Danielle Hurt - "Paragliding, jet boating and bungee jumping await us!"

Campus

Editor: Jean-Pierre Garcia
 campus.editor@mail.greenriver.edu



Teacher Spotlight: Joshua Kessler

Full name: Joshua Kessler
Position: Adjunct instructor of Japanese
Date of birth: June 2, 1975
Year at Green River: This is my fourth year.

Why did you become a teacher?

I initially became a teacher simply because a great opportunity to teach English in Japan presented itself. Working in Japan and pursuing further studies of the Japanese language provided the initial momentum for my interest in becoming a teacher in earnest. But ultimately, I became a Japanese teacher because I wanted to share the language and culture I was a part of with anyone interested.

Why Japanese?

I just always found it more interesting to teach a language that I myself learned from the very beginning. Even though I did teach English in Japan, it was just never as interesting teaching my native language as it is teaching my second language today. And it just seemed easier for me to identify with learners of the Japanese language since they would all share the same experience as me.

From your years of teaching, what's your favorite memory?

Getting my first true Japanese language teaching job (not an internship, etc.). It made all the years of study worth it.

What do you see yourself doing in the future?



Jean-Pierre Garcia / THE CURRENT

Hopefully still teaching Japanese.

What would you probably be doing right now if not for teaching?

If not for teaching Japanese, I would probably still be teaching English in Japan. If not for teaching in general, I could not really

say. I suppose there is the off chance that I could be a starving artist somewhere (my undergraduate degree is in Fine Arts).

What was (were) your childhood dream(s)?

My childhood dream was to work as one of those Nintendo game counselors who you called when you couldn't get past a certain point in a game. Keep in the mind this was years before you could just use an online walkthrough.

Who is your biggest inspiration?

There are many people who inspire me, but the top spots belong to my mother and my grandmother. My mother has always been supportive of everything I have done. And my grandmother faced and overcame great hardship to provide a better life for the rest of our family.

What is your favorite word in the Japanese language?

"Anzuru yori umu ga yashu."

Not a word per say, but a well-known Japanese proverb which can be translated as, "Fear is greater than danger." In effect, things are easier than you may think they are.

What is the craziest thing you've ever done?

Moving to Japan to teach English even though I was terrified of flying, had no teaching experience and no idea where I was being placed. Turned out to be the best decision I ever made.

Man on the street



Every other week, The Current's editors crawl out of their cave to ask the campus random questions. Suggest a subject at: thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Here is a selection of this issue's answers. For more, plus an archive of old questions, visit our website: www.thecurrentonline.net.

What are your plans for spring break?

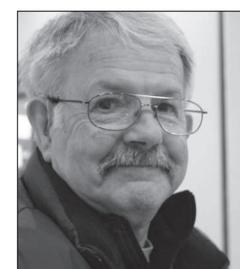
"I'm going down to Texas for the first time to visit my grandpa. I'm excited, I finally get a break from school and work - I'm super exhausted and sick and looking forward to the sunshine."

- Emily Voss



"Spending time with my family, hiking and bicycling. If I win any money I'll be doing traveling - my favorite would be the mountains. Somewhere nearby, with gas prices being what they are."

- Doug Dunn



"Probably hang out with friends and go to parties. Sometimes we get invited to different parties and it gets super hectic. Just party after party after party, and then we only have one week to rest."

- Shyer Javier



"I might be going to school, possibly. I'll probably be going to Guitar Center, and then I'll spend my days in bed, watching movies by myself, probably in my undies and living off of cereal."

- Paris Miller



"I'm going to Orlando to visit my girlfriend, she transferred to Florida University recently. She knows I'm coming but I haven't told her what day, so I hope to surprise her and take her to Disney World."

- Earl Dechsakda



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Who are your friends? Or, more importantly, who do you "friend?" Co-inventor of Facebook Platform, Dave Morin, will discuss the life-changing world of social media and friends networks, and teach you how to use that technology to market your company. Currently the co-founder and CEO of Path, a mobile-focused Internet startup, Morin also had ventures with Napster and Apple, was instrumental in expanding Facebook's capabilities, and played innovative roles in product strategy, marketing, and management.



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Campus



Editor: Jean-Pierre Garcia
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HIV, racism and wheelchair basketball - Diversity Week

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia
Campus Editor

The Student Life office recently organized its first ever Diversity Week, a week it hoped would increase awareness among students and staff.

"[We wanted] to put some topics out there that people don't talk about on a daily basis," said Amber Miller, Student Life events coordinator. "Every event was supposed to create a conversation that might not be going on."

Throughout the week, from Feb. 28 to March 5,

eight events were hosted, all on different topics related to diversity - three speakers and five regular events.

The week kicked off with an event at which people could spraypaint words they think the world would be better off without on the back of a T-shirt. "I'm hoping to instigate a conversation about why these words exist," Miller said that day.

The next day, the first speaker, Todd Murray, talked about HIV. On Wednesday, the two other lectures were held. Both of the speakers were veter-

ans, and Veteran's Affairs co-sponsored the events. This was also the first of the two days the Tunnel of Oppression was open. Thursday the annual club fair was hosted, and a wheelchair basketball game and a runway show ended the week on Friday.

Unfortunately, due to limited space, we are unable to talk in-depth about every event here. For more coverage on the week and the other events that were hosted, visit our website: www.thecurrentonline.net.

The Tunnel of Oppression

A sign in the LC that reads "Tunnel of Oppression" points you to an innocent-looking door. Before entering it, however, you must sign in and read a disclaimer.

"The materials in this room are offensive in nature. At times some participants may feel uncomfortable. Participants can choose to step out of the experience at any time and there is some-

one in the room to guide you to the exit."

Upon entering, you are swallowed by darkness. The only things visible at first are the papers, lighted by black light, that hang on the black walls all around you. "Skinny bitch," they read. "Milf." "Cracker." "Jap."

Meanwhile, speakers blast racist slurs and other insults through the room. "Seriously, just go kill yourself already," it echoes.

Once the eyes adjust, one is able to observe the setting; walls covered with dark material from top to

bottom, cards bearing insults hanging from the chandeliers. It feels a little like a haunted house - except here, the nightmare seems rather real.

After walking through the room, one ends up in its positive counterpart, dubbed the "hope room." As the name suggests, it's the exact opposite - instead of profanity, one finds himself surrounded by words like "friendship," "hope" and "love."

Here, staffers sat with crayons and post-its for students to leave their thoughts on, which were then put up on the hope wall. There was also a counselor available for anyone that needed it, which, according to Amber Miller, student life events coordinator, was the case more than once - several people had broken down crying in the tunnel, she said.

Roughly 100 people participated on the first day (the tunnel was open for a few hours on both Wednesday and Thursday). This is the first time such an event has been held at Green River, but the idea of a Tunnel of Oppression came from several other universities.

"We were trying to get people to start thinking about how silence of oppression begets oppression and how silencing oppression can be," said Miller.

The wall of hope will be hung in the Student Life office as a keepsake.

Does HIV look like me?

"Does HIV look like me? The answer is yes," Todd Murray said in the first lecture of diversity week on March 1.

"No matter the language or color of skin, so many people answers that question with no. There's always a reason why they don't look like HIV."

Murray, president and founder of Hope's Voice, shared his story, detailing what it was like to be gay in high school, dropping out, the birds and the bees talk from a fundamental father and chronicling how he learned that he contracted HIV and how he has learned to live with the disease since then.

During the talk, Murray almost immediately ditched the microphone, preferring to use a conversational tone with the small group of attendees in the Glacier Room.

"I'm here. At the age of 28, I never thought I would be on the stage talking about HIV," he said. "I'm celebrating my reality. I've survived my reality."

He asked the group how many of them knew someone their own age that was



Matthew Montoya / THE CURRENT

"There's no such thing as offending me," said Todd Murray. "And if you do you'll have to buy me a drink - I need to know the first word you think of when you hear HIV." The room responded with AIDs, sick, unsafe sex, death, gay, sex workers, Africa and hope. Murray thanked the person who said hope.

living with HIV. He was surprised by the number of hands raised - it was the highest he'd ever seen in a presentation.

Murray then asked the audience to stand. "Imagine that you're with someone on the fourth or fifth date. If you're still at McDonalds, that's a whole other conversation - what does cheap look like - but we won't go there," he said jokingly, before quickly returning to a serious.

He listed conversation topics, and people were supposed to sit down when something they would not discuss during dates was

mentioned. Family, extra-curricular activities, plans after school. Everyone still standing. Sports, hobbies, aspirations. Still on their feet.

"And what about their HIV status?" All sat down. Murray thanked the audience for being honest.

"There's no shame when you sit, but the reason I am here today is because I chose to sit at that question," he said.

"I've sat across the table and didn't have that conversation in my life. Please choose to stand. It is a worthwhile conversation to have."



Matthew Montoya / THE CURRENT

The tunnel of oppression, which was open to all students on Wednesday and Thursday, was completely darkened, with a blacklight on to illuminate the various slurs, a lot of them racist, hanging from the ceiling and the walls. "People laugh it off and pass it off as a joke, but in reality it is hurtful to a lot of people," said Amber Miller, events coordinator.



Matthew Montoya / THE CURRENT

Over a dozen students attended the wheelchair basketball game on Friday. Tacoma Titans, a local team, played a game with students, who ended up being so enthused that Student Life decided it would host a quarterly match. "People kept asking before the event was even over when they'd be back," said Amber Miller, events coordinator.

Campus



Editor: Jean-Pierre Garcia
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Crossing his fingers has finally paid off

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia
Campus Editor

It took Bryce Hughes more than three years to have his first academic paper published.

"Please, please, please make it," Hughes, Commencement Achievement Program (CAP) coordinator, remembers thinking, with fingers crossed every time he submitted it.

After months of proofreads from a variety of publishers, under the article titled "Using Case Studies to Help Faculty Navigate Difficult Classroom Moments," Hughes' name finally appeared in print in the January issue of College Teaching.

"Even before my Master's program, my goal was to get published," Hughes said. "But I was surprised when I did."

Originally an engineering honor society student and pep band member at Gonzaga University, Hughes decided to transition into student affairs after actively participating in the Gay-Straight Alliance. There he helped create an office on campus for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered and Queer resources.

"I stayed there for two years and realized I liked working on the campus setting a lot more," Hughes said.

In his junior year at Gonzaga, Hughes experienced a situation in a finance class similar to the tense moments he describes in his paper.

The instructor was from Australia, and a student was trying to make a tasteless joke by asking "Hey you know what they call cigarettes in Australia,

right?" recalls Hughes.

"Obviously it was a homophobic joke and it was inappropriate," he said. "I asked the instructor in an e-mail if he said anything. Nothing happened in that moment, but he awkwardly said 'Okay... let's move on...'"

This, according to Hughes, might not be the best method for dealing with the situation. "The main thing is not to let it go - that signals to students that you're not capable of addressing it. [But] you have the power and authority in the classroom."

To avoid this, the article - co-authored by Hughes' former supervisor Dr. Therese Huston and Julie Stein, a colleague - addresses how to facilitate a forum in order for teachers to respond to derogatory comments in the classroom.

This type of forum will be hosted at Green River by the Teaching and Learning Center starting in spring. Participating teachers will be given hypothetical situations and will have to discuss amongst each other how they would handle it.

"Research shows that ignoring tense moments makes them worse for the students involved, even if the teacher is able to continue with the planned material for that day," Hughes said, explaining that he hopes the workshops will help faculty be comfortable enough to deal with tense situations.

Hughes arrived at Green River three years ago, around the same time he started submitting the article for publication. Then, just out of his master's program focusing on Student Affairs from Seattle Univer-



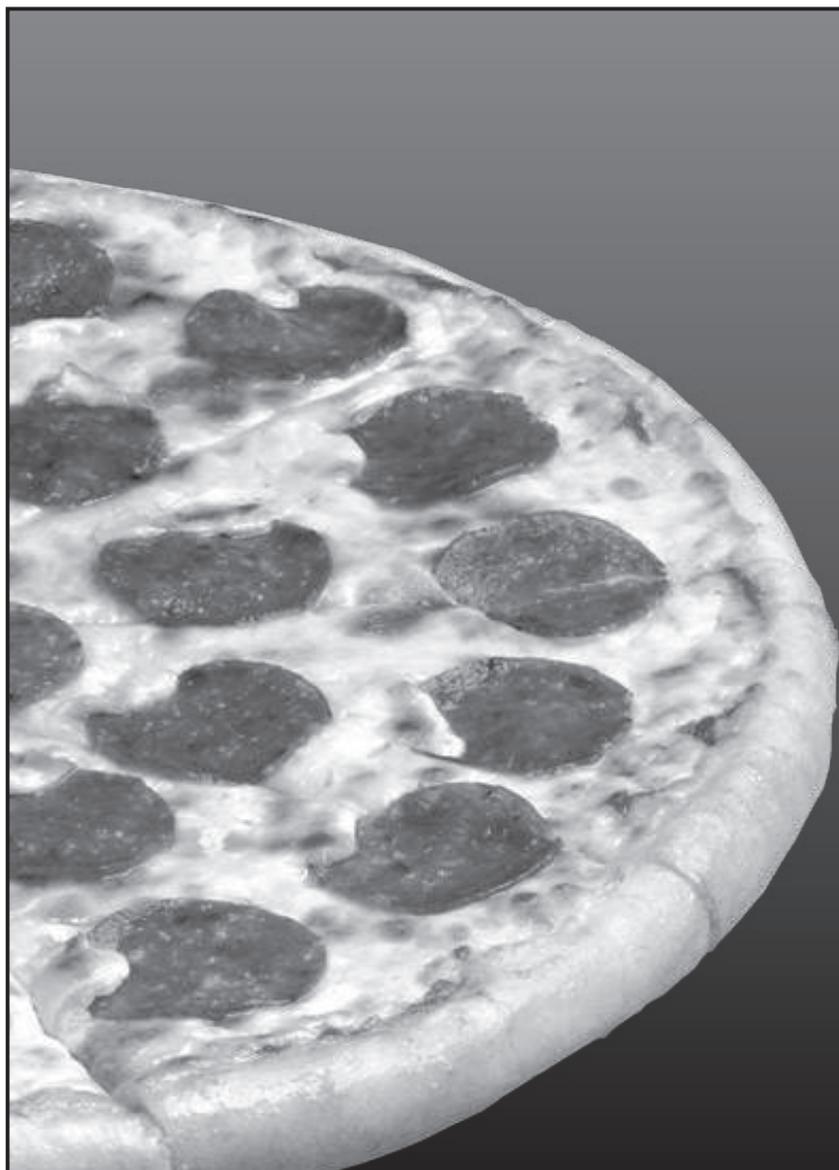
Bryce Hughes, CAP coordinator, was published for the first time in the January issue of College Teaching.

sity, Hughes went to work expanding the CAP office at Green River, which helps underserved and underrepresented students navigate the college system.

There are now nine peer navigators, student employees of CAP - about twice as many as when Hughes started in 2008. This corre-

sponds with the doubling of the amount of students that are being served by the CAP program, which is currently around 300.

"Bryce is like a father to us," Olga Rachynska, peer navigator at CAP, said. "[He] is amazing, and I don't say that just because he's standing right behind me."



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A & E

On the inside: "We need a conversation, and we need it sooner rather than later."

Editorial Board, page 16



HOW MUCH OF AN IGNORANT BASTARD ARE YOU: MYTHOLOGY & RELIGION

Did you know whale eyes are the size of a grapefruit? That carrots were purple before the 17th century? Or that a leech has 32 brains? No? Well, neither did we. Before we looked it up, anyway.

But, contrary to what some believe, a basic understanding of history and other things that seem trivial to the average college student is actually useful. In this spirit, every last issue of the quarter will feature a quiz on an important subject students know shockingly little and ought to learn more about. So, without further ado, enjoy the second quiz of our 'Ignorant Bastard' series.

1. The first boomerang, according to one native Australian myth, was:
 - a. The tail of a kangaroo
 - b. The rib of a snake
 - c. A conveniently shaped branch
2. One ancient Egyptian creation story has the creator, Atum, "copulate with his hand," "swallow his seed," and then sneeze and spit up his children.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. There are two separate creation stories in the Bible.
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. The city of Troy turned out to have actually existed when Heinrich Schliemann discovered its ruins in the nineteenth century.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. According to one African myth, the creator god left Earth to make heaven because:
 - a. A woman cut off a piece of him every day to make soup
 - b. A bird got sand in his eyes
 - c. He did not like the taste of green beans.
6. In one Norse myth, a frost giant gives birth to three beings from:
 - a. The sweat of his armpits
 - b. His toenails
 - c. His feet; one child per foot
7. The first known religious shrines date from roughly _____ BCE.
8. Pandora's box was actually a jar.
 - a. True
 - b. False
9. This Aztec god was worshipped by lacerating one's body with cactus thorns and sharp reeds.
 - a. Tlazolteotl
 - b. Quetzalcoatl
 - c. Xipe Totec
10. Celtic legend tells of a man who gained all the world's wisdom by cooking the _____ of Knowledge.

9-10 *Impressive. Perhaps you should drop out of your classes and write for The Current.*

6-8 *Only mildly ignorant. But you'll get by. Especially now that you know how creation by masturbation works.*

3-5 *Fairly ignorant. Wikipedia is your friend, embrace it.*

0-2 *Don't quit your day job. Or classes. Definitely not those.*

1: b, 2: a, 3: a, 4: b, 5: a, 6: a, 7: 5,000, 8: a, 9: c, 10: Salmon

WORD SEARCH

E	Z	W	S	P	R	I	N	G	B	R	E	A	K	S	S	H	S	A	L	P	S
X	M	M	S	H	O	W	E	R	S	G	H	L	I	A	H	D	D	A	I	S	Y
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Birds, blooming, breeze, butterfly, caterpillar, daffodil, daisy, flowers, grass, green, growth, hail, hiking, jacket, rabbits, rain, rain boots, rainbow, robin, seed, showers, splash, spring break, sprout, sunshine, thaw, thunderstorms, tulip, umbrellas

SUDOKU

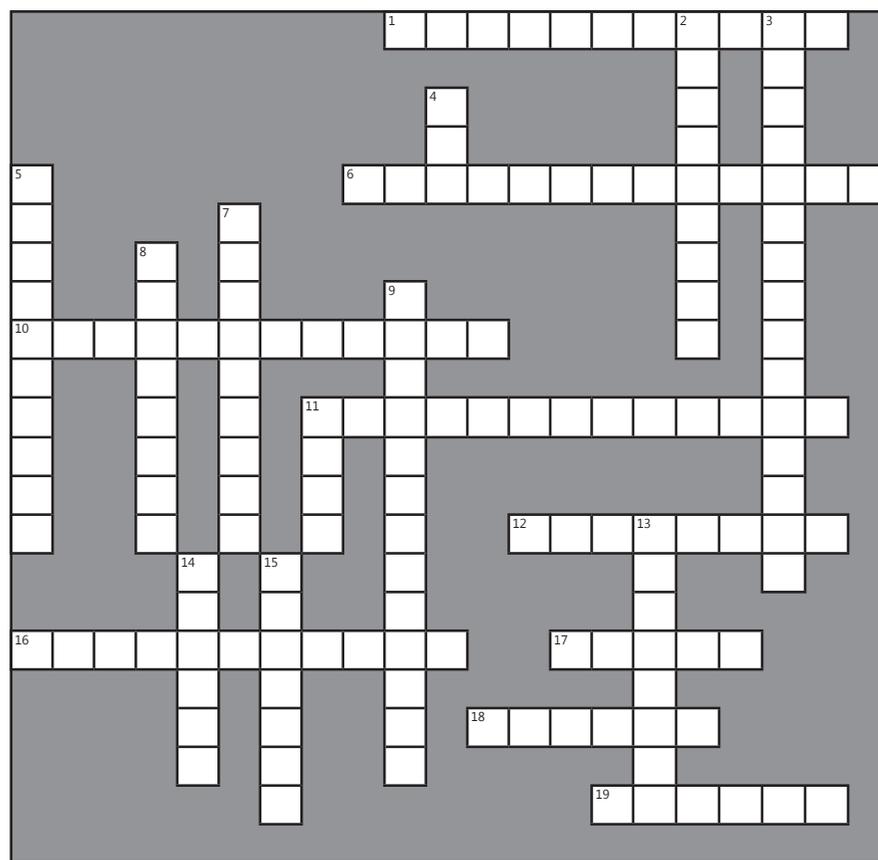
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Hard

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CROSSWORD



Across

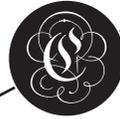
- 1 "_____ Rome never looked so deadly"
- 6 Grammy-winning jazz artist who visited Green River (2 words)
- 10 Teacher and author of "The Cutting Room Floor" (2 words)
- 11 Sociology instructor who lived in Berlin when the wall fell
- 12 Closure of the _____ Campus during the summer was suggested as a cost-cutting measure
- 16 Speaker whose speech was delayed twice and finally happened on March 10 (2 words)
- 17 Sports program that "virtually belongs" with cross country
- 18 Josh Davidson Advised avoiding _____ because it inhibits vasopressin, which may "interrupt a romantic moment"
- 19 Lead male character of the movie that, according to staff writer Mallory Litzinger, was "gnot that great"

Down

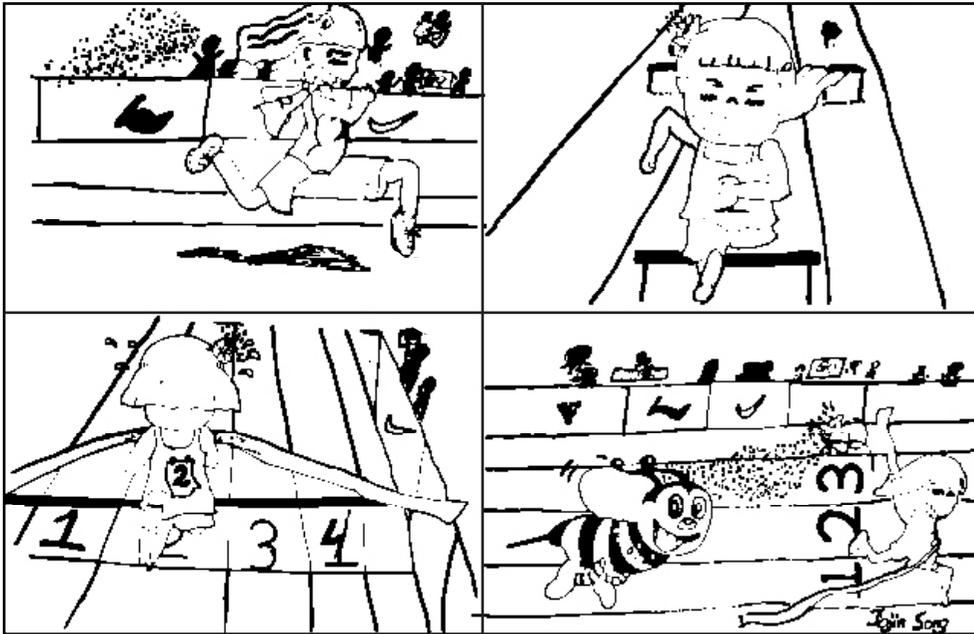
- 2 Winter Quarter's Study Abroad program's first location
- 3 Former state senator who joined the Board of Trustees mid-February (2 words)
- 4 Renovation of this building is planned after Salish Hall's completion
- 5 The only sport played at Green River this quarter
- 7 Former Green River drama instructor Gary Taylor was recently convicted of _____
- 8 When you go snow camping, says staff writer Megan Carter, stock up on _____
- 9 The only female contestant in February's rap and beatbox competition (2 words)
- 11 Month the college's final operational budget is issued to the Board of Trustees
- 13 According to Director of Public Information John Ramsey, the budget process is a _____
- 14 In 1998, this sex drug was created
- 15 Lecture-recording program made available to Green River staff & students this quarter

A&F Comics

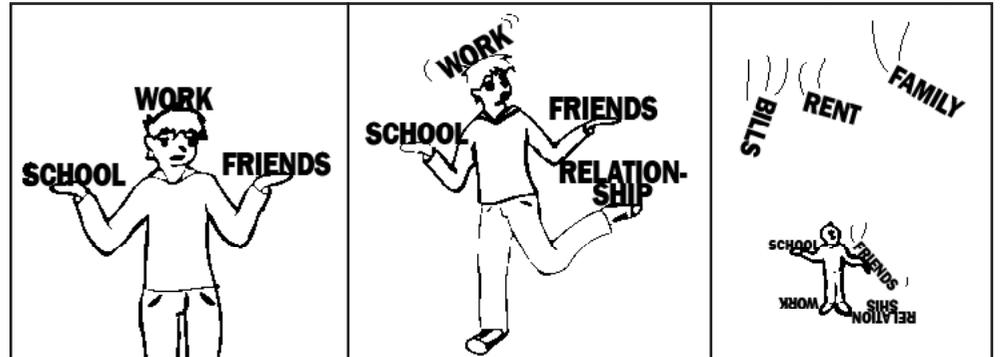
Editor: Bailey Jo Josie
ae.editor@mail.greenriver.edu



By: Jiajin Song



By: Kelli Wyatt



By: Bailey Jo Josie



Do you like to draw?
Do you have a sense of humor?
Do you think we don't have a sense of humor?
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A&E Review & Preview

Calendar

Concerts

- Mar 15 Devo
@ Moore Theatre
(Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$38+)
- Punch Brothers
@ ShowBox at the Market
(Doors open at 9 p.m. all ages, \$24+)
- Girl Talk (Mar 15-16)
@ ShowBox SODO
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, SOLD OUT)
- Mar 22 Good Charlotte
@ ShowBox at the Market
(Doors open at 6 p.m. all ages, \$25+)
- The Scene Aesthetic
@ El Corazón
(Doors open at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$10+)
- Mar 23 Three Days Grace
@ ShowBox SODO
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, SOLD OUT)
- State Radio
@ ShowBox at the Market
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$16+)
- Mar 24 She Wants Revenge
@ El Corazón
(Doors open at 7 p.m. 21+, \$20+)
- Apr 1 Pete Yorn
@ ShowBox SODO
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$25+)
- Apr 3 My Chemical Romance
@ ShowBox SODO
(Doors open at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$35+)
- Apr 4 Dodos
@ Neumos
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$15+)
- Greg Laswell, Lenka
@ The Crocodile
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$13+)
- Apr 5 Protest The Hero
@ El Corazón
(Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$14+)
- Apr 7 Ice Cube
@ ShowBox at the Market
(Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$33+)
- Apr 9 A Rocket To The Moon
@ El Corazón
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$13+)
- Apr 11 Foals
@ ShowBox at the Market
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$18+)
- August Burns Red
@ El Corazón
(Doors open at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$15+)
- Apr 12 John Mellencamp
@ McCaw Hall
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$44+)
- Apr 14 Deftones
@ Paramount Theatre
(Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$30+)

Movies

- Mar 25 Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Rodrick Rules - PG
Sucker Punch - NR
- Apr 1 Hop - NR
Source Code - PG13

Plotline lacking but graphics smacking

By: Devin Svetjipto
Staff Writer



'I Am Number Four,' directed by D.J. Caruso, is about John Smith (Alex Pettyfer), a teenager with Jedi-like powers. Even though, as you can guess from the subject, the movie lacks general plot development, its appealing use of computer-generated imagery (CGI) somewhat redeems its quality.

Smith, the main character, comes from a different planet. In his attempt to live a normal high school life in Paradise, he faces many challenges, such as suppressing his powers and hiding from his hunters, the Mogadorians.

The title 'I Am Number 4' reveals the existence of

more individuals like John - totaling nine - seeking refuge on Earth. Just like Smith, they are hunted - with three already dead, the Mogadorians only have six left to find, and Smith is next on their list.

Ultimately, Smith fails to aptly conceal himself from his predators and an epic battle ensues after his eyes met with the Mogadorians'.

The CGI used to create the cinematography for 'I Am Number Four' delivers high-quality visual effects - the movements of the characters are emphasized while at the same time retaining a sense of realism. The explosions, gunshots, and destructions seamlessly fit in with the scenes, creating the perfect ambiance.

One significant thing that holds this movie back



Smith (Alex Pettyfer) engaged in a battle with the Mogadorians.

is the bland storyline. It goes like this: a protagonist with superpowers, a girl he yearns for, a few bad guys, a fight, and a supposedly satisfying ending. It sounds similar to 'Spiderman,' except that movie is actually executed much better.

Also notable is that the general character development is weak, and there are many characters un- or underused in this movie.

You never get to see Number Five, for instance, and Number Six arrives for a few scenes out of nowhere, only to simply disappear again.

Fans of intricate story development and a surprising plot need not apply. But if you're just looking to immerse yourself in action-packed destructive graphics, then 'I Am Number Four' might very well tickle your fancy.

The Current Picks

Movie:

Husbands and Wives



It is immediately clear that 'Husbands and Wives' is the work of director and actor Woody Allen, as it is filled with raw camera angles, psychological problems, and a dialogue-driven plot.

When Sally and Jack announce that they're planning on splitting up - claiming they're both completely fine with the decision - the marriage of friends Gabe and Judy is jeopardized. Instantly Judy is thrown into a downward spiral, while Sally slowly recovers, deciding to explore her newfound freedom.

Filled with realizations about relationships, this movie is not only enlightening to the characters, but to the viewer as well.

By: Kelli Wyatt

Book:

The Street of Crocodiles



No other author in the history of writing has come close to the style of Bruno Schulz, a Polish poet and novelist from the early 1900s who was later shot and killed by a Nazi.

Schulz's 1924 collection of short stories, 'The Street of Crocodiles' is a literary gem, combining witty banter with lugubrious prose, and leaving the reader wondering if the story they just read had a happy or haunting ending. These autobiographical stories range from almost mythical tales to harsh coming-of-age events, such as my personal favorite, 'Cinnamon Shops.'

His beautiful writing cannot be forgotten - even if you would, at times, like to.

By: Lacey Steward

Music:

Computer World



Kraftwerk is the definitive electronic group; a musical machine of German perfection, they forged the path for electronic music today, starting with their early 70s formation as a krautrock band fond of synthesizers and repetition.

A must-listen for any music lover, their innovative and indefinable music has been sampled and covered countless times, including in Afrika Bambaataa's 'Planet Rock,' the first hip hop song to use a sample.

Their album 'Computer World' (1981) illustrates the elegance of a world interconnected by technology through hypnotic, floating tones and perfected beats.

By: Josh Davidson

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By: Bailey Jo Josie
A&E Editor

Emerald City Comicon (ECCC) is, all in all, a formidable beast to conquer - not just in terms of covering it for a newspaper (so many things going on!) but also as a comic book fan. Will I make a fool of myself if I say the wrong thing about Spider-Man? Did anyone notice I mistook Emma Frost for Storm?

It kicked off on Friday, March 4. Alexander Bevier, Jean-Pierre Garcia and I arrived around 3 p.m., all ready to get our journalistic skills on, but found that the Washington State Convention Center - the location of the convention - wasn't at full capacity; it didn't look like there were more than 4,000 people. The first impression was disappointing, but it only took a few moments for our spirits to lift.

We took a tour around and maneuvered our way through the forest of booths stacked with superhero merchandise - swords, costumes, you name it - and comic books to make our way to the DC comics panel, which was just starting.

Some of the questions that were asked were tedious, but others, like the inquiry on what political party Batman and Superman would be a part of, received pretty interesting responses: "Neither, since, A) Superman is above politics and B) Batman's too busy to vote," said panelist Chris Roberson. There was a second wave of laughter when Vertigo writer Will Dennis added, "Superman's an illegal alien anyway." The first day was



The Green Lantern was a popular cosplay character at the 2011 ECCC conference.

successfully conquered.

Saturday was definitely more like what I had expected of a comic book convention - there was more cosplaying, and much more to look forward to in terms of celebrities and special guests.

It really only came down to Captain Kirk himself - William Shatner. Along with photo ops (at the rather charitable price of \$70 each) there was also a spotlight on Shatner where he answered questions from the audience.

And they surely were his - there was a standing ovation before the man even said anything. You could clearly sense his presence and the sheer force of his fans' adoration. For them, Shatner is God.

And why not? The man has been acting for the last 50 years and there seems to be no end in sight for him. Although the tone was mostly lighthearted and quite a bit of the time was spent on William Shatner history lessons, he did manage to leave the audience with some words of wisdom: "Drama and comedy are essentially the same thing." And we learned that the answer to the question if George Takei is a "giving lover" or not is, in a creepy voice, "yeeeeess." It was a memorable hour, thanks to a memorable man.

Another special guest at the ECCC was Phoenix Jones, Seattle's very own masked vigilante. He is an ordinary man who roams the streets fighting

injustice, with rubber body armor and everything. He has actually been stabbed a few times, and he broke his nose just a week before his appearance.

As Comicon drew to a close, I had many memories I would cherish forever - Jean-Pierre chasing Wonder Woman around the convention hoping to snap a good picture (he failed, by the way), the seemingly endless supply of Boba Fetts in a seemingly endless amount of colors and my struggle with the mystery of the vanished Heavy Metal booth for hours on end (I swear I saw it!).

ECCC, especially since I had never gone before, was a true adventure. It was a big thing to tackle, not only as a journalist but also a fan.

The weekend drained my energy and my feet were more sore than they've ever been, but it increased my respect for so many artists and writers. Their hard work should be celebrated, and, thanks to all of the cosplayers and fans, it is. I can't wait until next year.



Jean-Pierre Garcia / THE CURRENT

Hardcorer than hardcore

It's hard to be a hardcore gamer when everyone plays games. The cool kids play 'Call of Duty,' the less-cool kids play 'Far Cry 2,' everyone's mom plays 'Scrabble' on her iPhone, and every person alive seems to be playing 'Angry

cords for the more authentic musical quality, or simply out of nostalgia. But what exactly is the game equivalent?

I'd like to think there's a term for people who play more than just a few games a year. There's nothing wrong with those who additively play 'Gran Turismo 5,' but they're missing out on a variety of other games with unique mechanics and experiences that are incredible.

I call these people "ludiphiles," a name originally coined in an episode of The Escapist Magazine's series 'Extra Credits' (ludic is Latin for play). These are the people who are probing play archives

Game Prose

Alexander Bevier



Birds' and 'World of Warcraft.'

The game industry has recently realized that not all games are for 'Terminator' fans. In fact, the Electronic Consumers Association reports that the current average gamer is 34 years old, and that 40 percent of gamers are women.

I, on the other hand, don't play one game for very long. If a game is really enthralling, I'll probably beat it once and never touch it again. There are too many games to spend time mastering a single multiplayer game, and I feel occupationally required to play and be book-smart at virtually everything.

So, what exactly does "being hardcore" mean if everyone is spending a hardcore amount of time playing games? Do the kids who play CoD deserve more "game cred" than the iOS Scrabble-dependent? The term means nothing. Everyone's a gamer, and everyone is pretty hardcore.

Still, it's always nice to have a strong adjective proclaiming one's love for gaming. In the hardcore world of music and literature, fans call themselves audiophiles and bibliophiles.

These people eat, sleep and breathe their one obsession, and seldom do anything that doesn't involve their cherished medium. Audiophiles will only use the best headphones and often collect vinyl re-

Gaming now has its bibliophile equivalent - the ludiphile.

during class. They wonder if the 3DS's unique hardware will make the Water Temple in 'Ocarina of Time' a less frustrating level. And they don't care whether a game is on Facebook. They simply want to play games - any game - and know everything about them.

Events like the Game Developers Conference and DICE Summit are the ludiphile's wonderland. During both conferences, developers gather around to share with their peers their successes and failures during game development. Hearing about how indie game developer and folk legend Daisuke Amaya designed the free computer game classic 'Cave Story' was enlightening and made me want to play the game again - and I've already beaten it on every possible platform.

Actually, forget everything else I've said. Just go play 'Cave Story.'

Our international students, 1138 in total, are from 5 continents and 48 countries. They make up over 10 percent of the entire student population. The big majority are from Asian countries - 1062 - and the country with the most students is China, at 347. Numbers of students are from winter quarter, and the median GPAs from fall quarter. All GPAs are of college-level classes only. For privacy reasons we did not publish the median GPAs of countries with less than five students.

Europe

 Netherlands 10 students Median GPA: 2.37	 Portugal 3 students	 Moldova 2 students
 Norway 7 students Median GPA: 3.46	 Bulgaria 2 students	 France 1 student
 Sweden 7 students Median GPA: 2.83	 United Kingdom 2 students	 Hungary 1 student
 Germany 3 students	 Spain 2 students	 Poland 1 student
	 Switzerland 1 student	

Asia

 China 347 students Median GPA: 3.65	 Hong Kong 118 students Median GPA: 3.2	 India 12 students Median GPA: 3.27	 Russia 3 students
 Vietnam 158 students Median GPA: 3.48	 Japan 74 students Median GPA: 3.49	 Thailand 9 students Median GPA: 3.63	 Malaysia 2 students
 South Korea 151 students Median GPA: 3.62	 Taiwan 38 students Median GPA: 3.65	 Mongolia 5 students*	 Bangladesh 2 students
 Indonesia 120 students Median GPA: 3.49	 Macau 13 students Median GPA: 3.75	 Kazakhstan 5 students*	 Kyrgyzstan 2 students
		 Nepal 2 students	 Singapore 1 student

The Americas

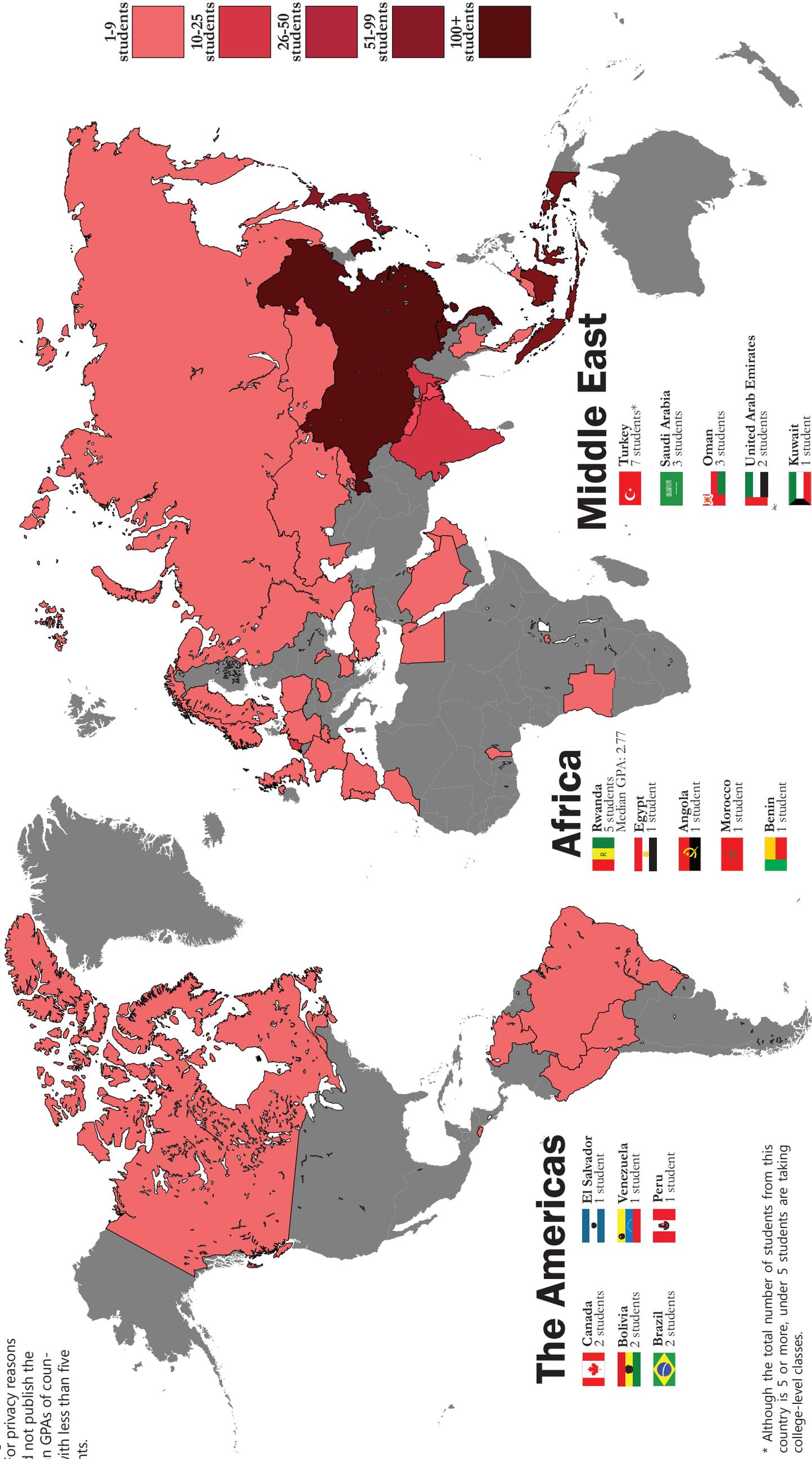
 Canada 2 students	 El Salvador 1 student
 Bolivia 2 students	 Venezuela 1 student
 Brazil 2 students	 Peru 1 student

Africa

 Rwanda 5 students Median GPA: 2.77	 Egypt 1 student	 Angola 1 student	 Morocco 1 student	 Benin 1 student
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Middle East

 Turkey 7 students*	 Saudi Arabia 3 students	 Oman 3 students	 United Arab Emirates 2 students	 Kuwait 1 student
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* Although the total number of students from this country is 5 or more, under 5 students are taking college-level classes.

All data courtesy of International Programs

Our International Students

Total
int'l students
1138

Average age
19.9

Median GPA
3.51


42%


58%

Business
majors
51%

IESL
Students
309

Academic
Students
829

The Intensive English as a Second Language (IESL) program offers students who are not yet proficient enough at English to enroll in academic classes basic English instruction. The IESL program is split up into five levels, one being the most basic and five the most advanced. Each level takes one quarter to complete, but it is possible to fail or skip a level. Students receive 20 hours of instruction per week, and they have access to specialized IESL tutoring. They pay the same amount of tuition as full-time international academic students - \$3,039 for 12 to 18 credits, and \$250 per credit for 18+.

To enroll in academic classes, students must either pass the IESL program or demonstrate English proficiency - this is usually done through the IELTS or TOEFL tests. Some of these students are enrolled in the High School Completion program at the same time. All academic international students are required to be enrolled full-time - 12 credits - for three quarters per year.

We asked students from countries with some of the highest international student populations five questions that we felt represent some of the things they deal with in their daily lives here. All are in IESL academic bridge class, which is part academic and part English. For all of the answers, check out our website, www.thecurrentonline.net.

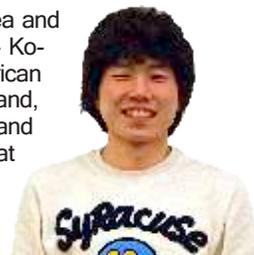
What is different between your country and the U.S.?



Jiajin Song (Annie)

The way people celebrate their birthday. In China, people have two ways to celebrate their birthday: either people will hang out with their friends for a whole day or they will invite their friends to dinner at a formal restaurant. In both ways, the person whose birthday it is needs to pay for all the entertainment. For example, if they go to a restaurant, the birthday person also needs to pay for dinner. People who are invited to the birthday need to buy a gift, not a birthday card or gift card. In America, people's celebrations of birthdays are parties. People will dress up and dance. Guests will buy birthday cards for the person whose birthday it is. They will pay separately for all the entertainment. The totally different way of celebrating birthdays is a big difference between China and the U.S.

There are two differences between Korea and the U.S. One thing is the eating habits - Korean kids use forks to eat food like American kids do. Korean adults, on the other hand, use chopsticks when they eat food and American adults use forks when they eat food. Second, the answers to negative questions are different. For example, when someone asks "don't you agree with my opinion?" Americans say "yes" if they agree with his opinion. However, Koreans say "no" if they agree with his opinion. The reason for this is a thinking difference. Americans have self-centered thinking, and Koreans have people-centered thinking. Therefore, the American answer means that he agrees with the opinion and the Korean answer means that Koreans agree with the question.



Kiwook Kwon

What is the hardest thing about living here?



Ho Leung Yung (Bryan)

I think the hardest thing about living in the U.S. is the inconvenient transportation. At first, I thought "the United States is a big country, so the transportation must be as convenient as in Hong Kong." However, the truth is totally opposite. The bus schedule here changes every four months, and I always wait at least half an hour for the bus. The buses here are not always on time, and I always need to use transit to get to my destination. Even though I can use the student bus ticket to pay the fare, it is still very expensive. Fortunately my host mom always drives me to school, but I still think the inconvenient transportation is the hardest thing about living in the U.S.

The hardest thing about living here is communicating. Because I am not good at speaking English, I sometimes have trouble with the language. I am living in CCA with two American roommates, and I love them. Even though we are different, we always help and care for each other. But sometimes I think that, if I were better at English, we would be closer than now. I guess most people who live in another country say the hardest thing about living there is the language, but I know I should just overcome it and study more and more to adjust to living here!



Ahreum Lee (Olivia)

What do you miss most about your country?



Kui Ting Lam (Boris)

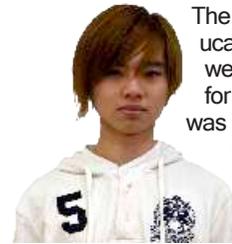
What I miss most about my country is the weather. Here, it always rains and it's cold. In Hong Kong it doesn't rain a lot and it's just cold sometimes. I want to go for a walk or play basketball outside sometimes. But usually, if it is not raining, it will be cold. It just makes me not want to go out to do things. Therefore, if the weather is really good, I won't miss the chance to go out to do something.

What I miss most about Vietnam is my parents. I have done everything by myself since I came here. I had to learn how to cook, wash dishes, take the bus, and pay rent - all for the first time. I realized that I depended on my parents too much. Even though my parents call me every weekend, I still miss them a lot. I want to eat my favorite meal, which is cooked by my mom, and listen to my dad's funny stories. This summer I will go back to my country and I believe that will be the best trip ever.



Quynh Nhu La (Michelle)

What do you think is the best thing about the U.S.?



Hing Yu Tsang (Henry)

The best thing about the U.S. is the marvelous education system. In Hong Kong, English lessons were always very boring. I had learned grammar for many years in my country, but my grammar was still very poor. However, I improved my grammar here within a quarter. The teachers here use good methods to teach students. I can also choose what I want to study in the United States. I can take science classes, business classes and art classes. In my country, only good students can choose what they want to study. If your exam results are not good, you have to wait until the students whose results are better than yours have chosen classes. The education system in the U.S. is good and fair.

I think the best thing about the U.S. is people's directness and honesty. When Americans have an opinion, they say it, and I know what they want and do not have to guess. Their honesty makes friendships and relationships simple and pure. When I was in China, there were always people that were oversensitive and hard to communicate with. When they said something, they hid their real feelings, which annoyed others. They are always girls, and these kinds of friends can drive me crazy. Compared with the girls here, I like Americans better. I just want real and deep friendships and relationships.



Liya Ye



Xin Rui Ma (Matthew)

When I arrived at my host family's house for the first time, I felt surprised. The surroundings of the neighborhood are so beautiful. Every house only has two floors and it is so peaceful all around. China has the biggest population in the world, so China only has a few houses like this because there is not enough land. Most people live in apartments and each apartment has at least 20 floors. I did not have many opportunities to see this kind of beautiful house. In addition, the Seattle area has lots of forests, so the air here is clean and fresh. In my opinion, the surroundings of the neighborhood are the best thing.

How is it to study here?

I don't know if studying here is easy or difficult, but it is so effective and helpful for my English skills. In Vietnam, I didn't have a chance to speak English regularly; I just used English within my foreign school and my teachers concentrated on grammar and reading. However, during my two quarters at GRCC, I have spent most of the time practicing pronunciation and listening. First I had some difficulties in listening and giving speeches, but my teachers showed me how to overcome and speak more naturally and confidently in front of people. Now, I can use English more smoothly and it is easy for me.



Chau Minh Tran (Honey)



Hyuna Lee

If I said it was easy to study here that would be a lie. However, it is not that much harder than in Korea. I'm taking the Academic Bridge class where we study Physics 105 and IESL at the same time. In Physics 105, I study with American students. We always do experiments in a small group and share our ideas. I really like to do experiments because I hadn't done experiments since I was in middle school. But in the U.S., even in college, I do experiments in class and I can share my notes with my classmates, including the Americans. So, I enjoy studying in the U.S.

News

On the inside: "Several people had broken down crying in the tunnel."

Amber Miller, page 4



Drama instructor convicted of voyeurism

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

Gary Taylor, the drama instructor who was charged with voyeurism early fall quarter, pleaded guilty as charged in King County Superior Court.

Taylor was sentenced to one day in jail, which he served the night after he was arrested, and 12 months of community custody. He is now a registered sex offender and will have to obtain a sexual deviancy evaluation at a time to be determined and follow treatment recommendations.

The maximum sentence for voyeurism - the act of spying on people engaged in intimate or private behavior, which is a Class C felony - is five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. As a felon, Taylor no lon-

ger has the right to vote or own firearms.

The sentence also compelled Taylor, 71, to pay the victim restitution. The amount will be decided on in a future hearing. He was also barred from contact with the victim for five years.

He, accompanied by his attorney, Neil Fox, turned himself in to the Auburn Police Department on Sept. 30, two days after officers had been contacted by a student who said Taylor had recorded her trying on dresses. As she was changing, she said, she noticed a camera between two pillows on a shelf in her PA building dressing room, and when she played the video back to the beginning saw Taylor placing the camera.

Taylor, who taught at Green River since 1967,



Jean-Pierre Garcia / THE CURRENT

Gary Taylor at his first court appearance on Oct. 1, the day after he was arrested. He would plead not guilty shortly after.

was released on his own recognizance the subsequent day, and was officially charged with one count of voyeurism on Oct. 4.

He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment on Oct. 13, but reversed the plea prior to his conviction.

Following his arraign-

ment, Taylor submitted a letter to Green River President Eileen Ely stating he would retire from the college. He remained on emergency leave during fall quarter, receiving full pay. Several administrative hearings were held before the final ruling on Feb. 18.

Future of financial aid marked by uncertainty

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

Despite recent additional budget cuts to higher education, financial aid at GRCC appears to be safe for this year. Next year, and the ones after that, however, are a different story.

"We've seen some tough budgets before, but this is just different," said Mary Edington, director of financial aid at the college, adding that she has never seen a situation as dire as this in her 30 years of work in education.

Financial aid for Green River students primarily comes from two sources: the state of Washington, with the biggest program being the State

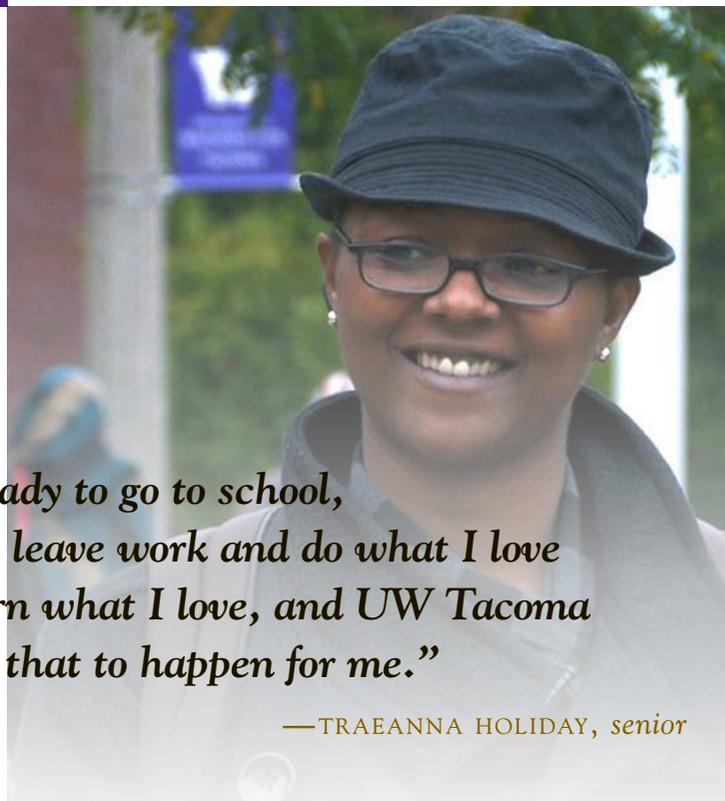
Need Grant (SNG), and the federal government, mainly in the form of Pell Grants. Both of these programs, which together represent close to half of the total current financial aid awarded, are far from safe from budget cuts.

Pell Grants funded 2,650 students for a total of \$9,040,751 in the 2009-2010 academic year, and, according to Edington, that amount will go up significantly this year. The budget recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives contained significant cuts to the Pell Grant program - more than 15 percent - and financial aid in general.

Continued on page 15.

W

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—TRAEANNA HOLIDAY, senior

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News

Editor: Lacey Steward
news.editor@mail.greenriver.edu



Continued from page 14

But it is unlikely these cuts will actually happen, said Edington, since both the Democratically-controlled Senate and President Obama strongly oppose the Republican-backed budget. Obama, though, has also proposed a decrease in

funding to Pell that would reverse one of his own initiatives that lets students study with Pell funds year-round rather than only three quarters.

This would save the government a significant amount, according to Edington, while preserving the full coverage - tuition, books and fees - that is

the only thing keeping a lot of low-income students in college.

The Pell Grant program has experienced significant growth over the past few years. In 2005-2006, it provided \$3,109,006 in aid to 1,599 students; five years later, the amount of money has more than tripled, and the program

now serves 2,650.

During that same period, the total amount of financial aid applications had gone up more than 150 percent, from 6,024 to 9,825. This, said Edington, is a result of recently-unemployed students returning to school and has cost the federal government large sums of money.

At the state level, the SNG was cut \$25 million in the recently-passed supplemental budget for the current fiscal year. However, due to a provision related to funding the state got from the federal government last year that requires financial aid to be above a certain level, students will not be affected by this cut, said Edington.

Instead, all the public colleges and universities will pay for a share of the funding decrease - Green River's is \$520,593.

Whether the SNG will be decreased further in the coming years is uncertain, according to Edington. But, she said, "we do know that the grants will not grow rapidly enough to cover the increasing costs of tuition."

A bill that is currently being discussed in the Legislature would require public universities to spend a certain percentage of their tuition income on financial aid if tuition is raised by more than 7 percent.

Although it is likely their tuition rates will go up 10 percent or more per year in the next biennium, there is no similar provision for community colleges.

The same bill would also give four-year schools the right to set their own tuition. This would most likely mean a sharper increase in tuition rates, and the financial aid provision is meant to lower the burden students have to bear when this happens.

"I don't know what will happen" at the state level, said Edington. "I know [the state] will still support financial aid, because it

The Undercurrent

Quality of cafeteria food might see temporary decrease

Students might soon find the quality of the Gator Grill's food decreasing, according to an e-mail sent out by Chartwells (the company that owns the cafeteria), according to manager Sandy Gonzales.

This is in large part due to extreme weather across the United States and Mexico. "We will try to accommodate your needs, but just know that the quality of what we can get will start to diminish over the next month," the e-mail said.

The tomatoes and peppers will possibly be smaller and at various stages of ripeness, it continued, and the lettuce will be slightly brown in spots. Tomatoes and peppers might have to be pulled from sale entirely in the coming weeks. Salads, sandwiches and burgers will be the items affected most.

By: Lacey Steward

Instructors recommended for 2011-2012 sabbatical leave

Several instructors were recommended to the Board of Trustees for sabbatical leave for the 2011-2012 school years on Feb. 17. Sabbatical leave is a paid leave of absence for teachers to research, volunteer or supplement education.

One of the instructors, Dave Mullet, requested a year off and proposed traveling to Nicaragua for a class in "comparative skeletal anatomy" at the Ometepe Biological Field. He plans to research interactive, hands-on demonstrations and activities to enhance his own classes. He would also work as a conservational volunteer.

John Avery, ESOL teacher, also among those recommended, wants to travel to a Spanish speaking country to further develop his language skills while at the same time studying effective methods to help ESOL students transition from basic to college-level language skills. He requested two quarters off.

Faculty Development funds set aside \$63,000 for sabbatical leave. The Faculty Development Committee, made up of 12 teachers - one from each division - and two members of administration, ranks the instructors that apply in to four categories.

The committee then adds all their rankings together and generates a list of recommendations for the board. It will make its final decision on who is awarded sabbatical in its regular meeting on March 17.

By: Haley Bridges

has done well in the past and recognizes the importance of financial aid for students."

But, she added, the state simply does not have enough revenue to provide aid at the levels that it would like. As a result, despite the Legislature's commitment to education, future cuts in financial aid are a possibility.

The federal financial aid situation, however,

Zach Murray contributed reporting.

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News

Editor: Lacey Steward
news.editor@mail.greenriver.edu



Student budget enters its final stages

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

The 522 budget, the student budget that funds, among other things, athletics, clubs and events at the college, has been finalized by the student government finance committee. It will be submitted to the full senate for a vote in early April.

Made up entirely of student fees, it currently stands at \$1.4 million - the same amount as last year. The budget is renewed and revisited annually, with mainly members of

the Associated Students of Green River Community College (ASGRCC) - student government - in charge of who gets how much money.

The process starts in December when the Student Life office asks the business office for funding projections. Once those numbers are in, departments and programs funded by the 522 budget are asked whether they would like to adjust - either up- or downward - the amount of money they received the previous year.

After these requests are

made, processed and organized, the Student Life Budgeting Team, consisting of four staff members

and meeting is held by the same group in order to propose a balanced budget - requests always

the four staff members on the team, and it can thus be quite a difficult task. "It was a six-and-a-half hour

start and often give their input at the earlier meetings.

After the Senate votes, the budget "goes up the chain," explained Chang, to the Dean of Student Services, the Executive Vice President, the President, and finally to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Either in April or May, ASGRCC - represented by Chang, President Joaquin Olivas, Vice President Andy Nguyen and Finance Committee Chair Soo Yeon Kim - presents the budget to the board.

"[The board] has had some pretty significant questions, but it knows our process is very long and very involved," said Chang, so the budget has never failed to pass. The board typically makes its decision in June.

The students involved in the budget process get extensive training beforehand, according to Chang. ASGRCC executive staff - the President, Vice President and Chief Justice - train 40 hours per week for four weeks during the summer, and all the other students that participate get budget training as well.

"Think about you being the manager of your own checking account," said Chang. "It's good for [the students] to see how the money is being spent."

She added that it's important for students to learn where the 522 budget fits into the college. "Students come here for their education, but how can we enhance their learning environment through student life - that's what we're for," she said.

"Research says that what we do in this office keeps people in college. It's not just about going to class, going home to study, going to work - you have to be able to grow in other ways, and I feel like we do that here."

"What we do in this office keeps people in college. It's not just about going to class, going home to study, going to work - you have to be able to grow in other ways, and I feel like we do that here."

- Dani Chang, director of student services

and five students, holds an open meeting for people to come and explain their requests in February.

A week later, a sec-

ond meeting is held by the same group in order to propose a balanced budget - requests always exceed the available funding, explains Dani Chang, director of student services, leadership and involvement, and one of

meeting this time around, which is longer than it ever has been," she said.

People who are funded through the 522 budget are then informed of what their respective preliminary budgets look like - whether they received a cut or got all they asked for, for example.

At the same time, the budget is sent to the ASGRCC finance committee, which then holds two meetings similar to those previously held - one where people can come in to plea for more money or express satisfaction with what they got, and one where it will look at every line and either accept the team's suggestions or alter the level of funding, and ultimately balancing their budget proposal as well.

"They're also doing their homework and asking questions," said Chang, explaining that the finance committee's proposal usually looks a bit different from the original one.

Next is an up-or-down vote - meaning no adjustments can be made - by the student senate. This usually takes place mid-March, but it was delayed until early April this year due to an issue with athletics funding.

Although the senate cannot amend single budget lines during their vote, Chang said the budget has never failed in the senate because its members are involved from the

This is the 522 budget as it stands right now - this is not yet final. If either the ASGRCC Senate or the Board of Trustees fails it - this has never happened - it will have to be amended. The budget gets its money from student fees and can only be used to pay for student-related activities.

\$303,151

Athletics

This includes coaching salaries, equipment funds, rental of facilities, referees and other general expenses. Bar a small amount of facilities funding from the regular college budget, athletics is completely funded out of the 522.

\$454,223

Student Life

The biggest part of the budget, this covers most extracurricular activities - special events, clubs, intramural sports, music programs and on-campus speakers, to name a few. It also includes a little under \$100,000 for several types of student employment and \$50,000 per year for a new Student Life building. Although it is a separate entity, we have also included student government's \$34,050 here.

\$143,149

Administrative

As the name suggests, this part of the budget goes to things like phone bills, insurance, printing costs, data processing and the business office and other things necessary to run Student Life and Student Services.

\$105,568

Auxiliary

The auxiliary budget funds partially funds the campus newspaper, The Current, and the two radio stations, KENU and KGRG. It contains both funds for employment of the students - \$19,629 combined - and operating costs.

\$1.4 million

\$60,724

Instructional

This budget pays for tutoring and student salaries. Roughly \$10,000 goes to the Math, Writing and Tutoring & Resource Centers to fund extra tutors, and the remainder is spent on instructional awards, which allow departments to hire students to assist with duties such as grading.

\$333,185

Other

The budget lines that don't fit into any of the other categories. This includes \$86,200 for child care for students with children, \$165,489 to pay for some of the part-time salaries of student-life staff and \$74,000 for Deb Casey, dean of students, to spend on student services that aren't covered by the regular college budget.

OpEd

On the inside: "Unfortunately, the world of intercollegiate athletics is a money game."

Bob Kickner, page 18



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The Editor

By: Remco Zwetsloot

There we are again, at the end of the quarter, and, just like last time, it has felt like time has flown by - usually after an issue is finished and I get a three day mini-'vacation' - and like it has lasted excruciatingly long - usually at 5 a.m. on Tuesday, when we're not even close to being done with editing but already sleep deprived.

Even that feeling by now has become rather routine, though. I feel like, after getting the hang of it during the first quarter, we have now settled into a more steady rhythm (albeit not one with more free time for any of the people involved

Assistant Editor: Julia McDonough (Sports)

Senior Writer: Alexander Bevier

Staff Writers: Haley Bridges, Megan Carter, Kierra Elfalan, Mallory Litzinger, Celeste Monroe, Zach Murray, Gentry Seipert, Devin Svetjijto, Samantha Wang.

in production).

This issue, at least, went better than last quarter's equivalent, which was our first 20-pager. After the not particularly great - I will spare you the details - experience then, I told myself I would do what I most dread about this job: bug people until they get me what I need. Although this may come as a shock to some of you, there are quite a few procrastinators on this campus, and a big part of being the Editor-in-Chief of a college paper is getting even those people to turn in their stories on time - or, occasionally, to write them for them.

This unavoidably leads to tense situations sometimes, but luckily we have a team capable of improvising. In large part due to this team, I think we've had a very successful year so far, and hopefully this will pay off at the end of the year; four days after this is-

sue comes out our entries for the annual Washington Community College Journalism Association awards are due, and I'm hoping our hard work will pay off in the form of some prizes. (For any judge reading this, I have no scruples when it comes to bribery, you have my e-mail.)

That being said, I'm hoping to surpass what we have achieved so far, and with enrollment in our class doubling next quarter I think this isn't wholly impossible.

Aside from continuing to improve our overall quality, the two biggest things I'm hoping to do is developing our own website and successfully setting up a multimedia team. It's time for newspapers - both on the college level and nationally - to adapt to the twenty-first century, and it would be great if, by the end of the year, we could take a step in that direction.

The Other Editor

By: Kelli Wyatt

With early mornings and usually very, very late evenings, my school days are practically non-stop. To add to the stresses of my routine, I recently picked up a Saturday job at a chocolate factory and shop, and my Sunday job at a golf course is starting to pick up again after a rather frustratingly cold winter.

Naturally, such a busy routine leads to a skimpy social life, but I'd have to say I miss my dad's dinners more than socializing or sleeping (as crazy as that sounds). We always talk about the long nights editing, but we often fail to mention that we barely ever eat a decent meal. When we do - at least for me - it is usually a delightful meal of popcorn, fruit snacks, and, if I'm lucky, iced tea.

Thankfully this sad excuse for food warrants what I've come to call our "victory dinners," which occur following the completion of

an issue and usually consist of either chicken breast or salmon fillet, noodles topped with sharp cheddar cheese, and gloriously thick green beans.

Aside from my general alienation from good nutrition, I'm really pleased with this quarter's changes to the paper. Throughout fall quarter, we generally used photos for the front page of every issue; this quarter we started integrating more graphically-appealing features instead.

This excitement, however, also comes with frustration. It seems there is an eternal war between important information, space, and trying to make a design effective. Often - because we are a newspaper and not a magazine - important information prevails. I like to think we're beginning to find a good balance, however, between design and informing the public of what's happening in their community.

That's what he said she said

Jean-Pierre Garcia:

"Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere."
- Carl Sagan

Remco Zwetsloot:

"A conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who, however, has never learned how to walk forward."
- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Kelli Wyatt:

"The distance between insanity and genius is measured only by success."
- Bruce Feirstein

Kerry Kralovic:

"Lead from the front."
- Audie Murphy

Josh Davidson:

"Sometimes questions are more important than answers."
- Nancy Willard

Alyssa Ryan:

"I never realized until lately that women are supposed to be the inferior sex."
- Katharine Hepburn

Bailey Jo Josie:

"Plastic surgeons are always making mountains out of mole-hills."
- Dolly Parton

Lacey Steward:

"I like to crack the jokes now and again, but it's only because I struggle with math."
- Tina Fey

Editorial Policy

The Current is a limited public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. Green River Community College delegates editorial responsibility for the content of the publications. The college acknowledges the dual free purpose of student publications as instructional tools and as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the academic community. The views and opinions expressed in The Current do not necessarily reflect those of the college or student body.

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Note: The quotations featured here in no way represent The Current or the student body's opinion, but rather that of the individual editors.



In budget process, remember the students

Editorial Board: Remco Zwetsloot, Kelli Wyatt, Josh Davidson, Bailey Jo Josie, Jean-Pierre Garcia, Alyssa Ryan, Lacey Steward, Kerry Kralovic

The budget situation isn't looking good. In the governor's proposal for the next two years, which is the only one on the table but dates back to November, community and technical colleges would take a 10 percent cut. The State Board for Community & Technical colleges, however, has asked colleges to prepare scenarios for 15 and 18 percent cuts as well.

The size of the cut will remain in limbo until late April or early May - although the next revenue forecast, which is expected to arrive on March 17, might give some indication - but it is certain cuts are coming.

The college has taken steps to involve the campus in the budget process. It held nine think tank sessions with faculty and staff late fall quarter, in which it collected 520 suggestions to reduce spending,

enhance revenue and increase efficiencies.

This input, however, seems rather skewed: only 35 suggestion groups out of 216 contain the word "student," and four of those concern shifting costs from the college to students - having students rather than instructors print class material, for example - or using students to increase revenue without any benefits for them.

In contrast, those relating to spending reductions - which range from turning off heat and lights to reducing staffing and levels of administration - total 98.

Although it is true that spending reductions at colleges will eventually benefit students, it has become clear this year that we cannot solve this crisis by drinking fountain instead of bottled water.

The college has ex-

pressed confidence that it could weather a 10 percent cut for the next biennium without laying people off or reducing programs and services. With an 18 percent cut, however, this would most likely not be the case. And, bar a miracu-

great first step in this process would be to survey students on what programs and services are essential to them. This was suggested during the budget think tank sessions, but not classified as a priority by the President's Cabinet. (Get-

going through the suggestions of the earlier meetings would take a longer than expected. To give students their fair say, the college should host these sessions anyway - if necessary, in an altered format - to ensure a fair representation of all interests at stake.

Green River, with additional money from the high amount of Running Start and international students that many other colleges do not have, is weathering the crisis relatively well.

The college has not yet had to lay off anyone, whereas Shoreline Community College, for example, has said it will cut 18 full-time faculty as well as other positions if the governor's budget is implemented. Although it is not certain this will happen, other budget proposals will not be any better.

But in times like these,

even if we are better off than others, although we may hope for the best, we must prepare for the worst. Efficiencies and spending reductions will help, and they might even get us through the first round of cuts, but they will not fix the problems we are facing; you will not weather close to a decade of budget cuts by turning off lights and using less paper.

We need a conversation, and we need it sooner rather than later. One in which all parts of the college, and especially the biggest and the most important one - the students - are represented, one in which tough cuts would be talked about. Time will tell whether we will be forced to make those now, in the future or perhaps even not at all, but the college should not go into the coming months and years unprepared.

You will not weather close to a decade of budget cuts by turning off lights - we need a conversation, one with student involvement. And we need it sooner rather than later.

lous bump in state revenue in the next few years, the cuts will not stay limited to the next biennium either.

We stand by the steps the administration has taken thus far, but it needs to start involving students in the process to ensure that will remain the case. A

ting a coffee cart at Kent Campus and switching to off-brand toner were, however.)

The administration had planned on hosting think tank sessions, similar to those it had earlier, with students, but came back on that when it turned out

In a time of cultural decay, stay classy, Academy

By: Alexander Bevier
Senior Writer

The 83rd Academy Awards Ceremony was an amalgam of the pretentious films snobs (i.e. me) and the average, blockbuster film fan (i.e. Homer Simpson). It featured auto-tuned songs and 'Gone with the Wind' montages. There were iPhone apps and Kirk Douglas.

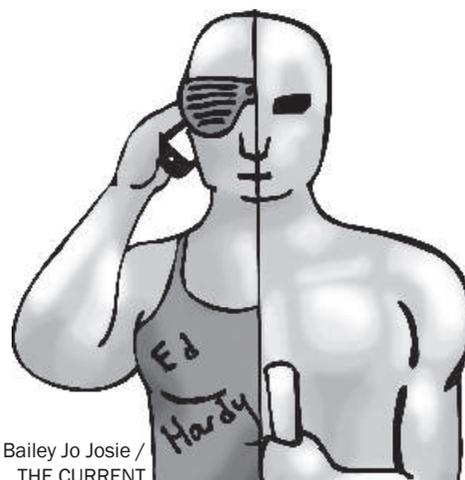
It was a hot mess of old and new, leaving a confused audience unsure whether it was celebrating pop culture or the wonderful history of the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences.

This pandering to two audiences makes the award show an unwatchable mess. The Academy needs to realize that, if it

sticks to their prestigious niche, they will find greater success than when it is attempting to convince Michael Bay fans to tune in.

Those who want to see auto-tuned songs from 'Toy Story' can do so from their home computers. Kirk Douglas, on the other hand, has been gone from the media for almost a decade. His stroke rendered him barely able to talk, and watching him announce the Best Supporting Actress nominees was beautiful. Truly, it was Spartacus' greatest moment.

This majestic moment in Oscar history, however, is blurred when it's surrounded by Justin Timberlake using his iPhone to change the stage's backdrop and Anne Hathaway



singing a parody from 'Les Miserables' On My Own. (Which, might I add, has never been made into a film. Seriously, there is no film adaptation of one of the world's most popular musicals - wasn't 'Glee' making this sort of thing cool?)

The Academy is attempting to serve as a cul-

tural touchstone and be relevant to youth simultaneously; it wants to serve as a beacon of filmic brilliance, but ratings are higher when box office successes of questionable quality receive multiple nominations. These days it's not easy trying to be intelligent and still get enough viewers to sup-

port the red carpet's dry-cleaning bill, and it shows.

Presented with these two evidently incompatible worlds, the Academy has to stand tall and stay true to its history rather than try and persuade the 'cool kids' to watch.

In a time of cultural decay, the Oscars need to remain the most important and quality night of the film industry, and, to do so, it must keep the Kirk Douglases on- and the smartphones off-stage.

The simplest solution to this problem is to get blockbuster directors to make better films. Christopher Nolan's pictures has managed to do very well for himself both critically and financially with 'The Dark Knight' and 'Inception,' and obtained several Oscars for Best

Supporting Actor (Ledger) and Best Visual Effects (those special effects guys).

Even 'The Social Network' - an intelligent film written by Aaron Sorkin, one of 'The West Wing's' writers - managed to turn heads from all directions, proving popularity and quality aren't necessarily incompatible forces.

But, alas, it is unlikely that will happen. If the Academy decides to act more mature and reverent, films will follow suit.

After all, at least for now, it's the goal of all filmmakers to win a coveted Oscar. All the mindless films will slowly get lost in the void and Michael Bay will be reduced to YouTube - making the film world a genuinely better place.

OpEd

Editor: Alyssa Ryan
oped.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

United Faculty wants to talk, not stall

The recent article about the grievance filed by the United Faculty against the administration over filling full-time faculty positions aptly covered what has recently occurred. However, I would like to clarify why we deemed the grievance a necessary step at this point.

Though John Ramsey is correct that mecha-

Letter

nisms exist for faculty to collaborate with administration, they have only been minimally utilized.

During late Fall and Winter quarters, the UF attempted to begin serious discussions with administration about the nine vacant full-time faculty positions. We acknowledged

that compromise would be necessary and hoped we could collaborate constructively.

A faculty voice in these discussions is critical so that we can speak to our ability to offer the courses and programs students need while maintaining quality and accessibility to students. The nine vacancies are in these areas: Math, Library, English (2), Basic Skills, Economics, Business Education (2), and Drama.

In all, the lack of full-time faculty hurts students. In those that offer core skills, it prevents students from advancing through prerequisites towards their goals, and it has become challenging to hire enough adjunct faculty to meet the demand for these classes. In

Economics and Business Education, it is challenging to find adjunct faculty at all.

Not filling those positions can result in a dramatic decrease in the number and variety of courses offered. In drama, the vacancy represents the only full-time faculty position. Without it, there is effectively no drama program as we knew it.

In all areas, increased reliance on adjunct faculty means full-time faculty spend more time recruiting, hiring, orienting, and evaluating adjunct faculty rather than teaching and working with students. Further, adjunct working conditions do not afford them the time and resources to meet, tutor, and advise students out of class.

The administration says it is only delaying its decision about the vacancies until the legislature passes a budget, but they know what waiting means. By the time a budget is passed and the college is able to evaluate it and make decisions, spring quarter will be almost over.

While it is sometimes possible to hire full-time faculty that late in the year, in the academic marketplace, there is a January-April hiring window after which it is quite difficult to reach a competitive applicant pool or hire in time for Fall. Those who work in education are well aware of this.

Because of natural attrition and the college encouraging senior faculty to retire by offering them a

bonus, more vacant positions will be added to the current nine next year, and the budget will not get easier. We must start talking about how to fill at least some of the vacancies or we will do damage to the instructional resources of the college that will take many years to repair. Again, the faculty has and is trying to initiate such talks.

We acknowledge that the budget crisis demands hard choices. However, the purpose of the college is to provide education, which is what faculty and only faculty are hired to do.

That purpose must be protected first and foremost. As of 2009 Green River had 1,234 employees, as much as 400 more than in 2005; roughly 130

(only approximately nine more than in 2005) of these are full-time faculty.

The nine vacant positions plus additional vacancies being encouraged by retirement incentives threatens to decrease the number of full-time faculty by as much as 10 percent, possibly more. The United Faculty has grave concerns about the consequences of that kind of loss.

Requesting to work collaboratively to avoid those consequences is not, as John Ramsey stated, "hasty" - it is prudent and responsible.

- Jaeney Hoene,
United Faculty Grievance
Committee Member, on
behalf of the UF.

Student body president speaks on student budget

Earlier this quarter, I had the honor of working with the Student Life Budget Development Team to set the annual budget for next year at \$1.4 million as the chair of the 522 budget meetings. In this process we reviewed new budget requests as well as current operational budget requests.

Collectively, the process

Letter

took about twelve hours to complete and spanned two budget meetings. After adding up the amount requested by each department, we found that Athletics was requesting an increase from \$250,000 to \$310,000. This increase included facility fees for field rental, insurance coverage for coaches, and funding for a new track team.

Additionally, Deb Casey, dean of student services, requested for several salaries to be placed on the 522 budget: 60 percent of the Athletic Director's salary and 100 percent of the Athletic Coordinator's salary, which equals about \$90,000. In total, this put requests for athletics at \$400,000. After the process was done, the recommendation for athletics funding stood at \$367,000, or about 25 percent of the 522 budget.

My concern is simple: I feel that the percentage of the budget appropriated to each department should represent the amount of students that utilize services, which in the case of Athletics would be over 3,000 participants - it isn't close to this number.

At the meeting, Bob Kickner stated that due to the limited resources of the athletics department,

his teams are mediocre at best. I don't agree with that statement. In my opinion, we could reduce the number of sports offered at Green River by one, which would free up about \$30,000. This could then be put back into the department to fund the remaining sports.

Also, wouldn't it make more sense for to remove scholarships from the 522 budget and work primarily with the Green River Foundation for funding scholarships through donations from alumni, former athletes, or the community?

I do not support using student fees to fund scholarships for athletes, because I feel that the choice to donate toward a cause should be something one does of their own volition.

- Joaquin Olivas,
ASGRCC President

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Sports

On the inside: "We've seen some tough budgets before, but this is just different."

Mary Edington, page 12



Playing the money game

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

Money makes the world go round, they always say.

And so it does, too, according to Green River Athletic Director Bob Kickner, when it comes to community college sports.

"Money makes college athletics work - the more money you have, the more attractive your program is, the better talent you can recruit, the more experienced coaches you can hire," he said. "Unfortunately, the world of intercollegiate athletics is a money game."

Though many factors play into a team's performance, "having a knowledgeable, available coach who can attract better quality athletes [is] where it starts," said Kickner.

But "the organizational structure with our coaches hinders their ability to be successful," he added. Most coaches - all but one - only work on campus part-time and make an average of around \$5,000 per year, so they need other, off-campus jobs to support their families.

"We're set up to have hobby coaches, and if you want to have collegiate programs you should have collegiate coaches."

Tim Malroy is the only coach at Green River who works here full time; next to men's basketball coach he is also assistant director of student services. His team, not incidentally, according

to Kickner, has been one of the Green River teams to consistently compete for play-off spots each year.

The kind of system in place has led to a dramatic increase in the turnover of coaching staff as well, said Kickner.

"If I can get a coach to stay more than three years, I feel really blessed." Of the five sports that will be played in spring quarter, four have first-year coaches and one has a second-year. Eight of the ten coaches currently employed at the school are in their first or second year.

"If you're going to try and

Kickner also recalled an e-mail he received from Green River cross country coach Tori Ammons, who also coaches at high schools, asking him how it was possible that Spokane had invited one of her students to stay in a hotel for a few days with their family so that they could visit the campus.

"Most coaches here will do whatever they can" to recruit students, said Kickner, "but we do not have the dollars necessary to pay for recruitment trips." Instead, coaches often have to contact prospective students

is nothing to show him or her," said Kickner.

All things considered, what it comes down to is a college's philosophy, said Kickner; whether you will strive for participation or for excellence - and, he added, whereas athletes and coaches want excellence, it seems the college is fine with just participation.

"We've been in the middle, but I think we're to a point now where my coaches and my athletes want to come here and have a chance to win," said Kickner.

"We're trying to tweak our

"Money makes college athletics work - the more money you have, the more attractive your program is, the better talent you can recruit, the more experienced coaches you can hire. Unfortunately, the world of intercollegiate athletics is a money game."

- Bob Kickner, athletic director

develop a program, the coach is the visionary," he explained, but because the college only pays coaches \$10 an hour it often becomes unaffordable for them to stay very long.

This is not the case at every college, though. At Spokane Community College (SCC), which Kickner compares to a small university in terms of funding and size, all the head coaches work at the college full-time. All but one, who is assistant athletic director, are either an adjunct or full-time PE teachers.

over the phone or Facebook, or try to establish relationships with high school coaches in hopes of finding local talent.

But local students aren't always as easy to reach, either, he said, since Green River has a lot of local competition - mainly Highline, Tacoma, Pierce, Bellevue - that all go after the same students.

When you want to recruit students, one of the most important things to have is facilities that will make a student go "oh, I want to play here," according to Kickner. "Green River has a definite deficiency in that regard."

Green River has a gymnasium with one court. Bellevue, on the other hand, has its own soccer field, its own baseball field and a gymnasium with three full-sized basketball and three regulation courts for volleyball. And most of the other colleges in the area have at least marginally if not much better facilities as well.

"If a student athlete comes to Green River and wants to go on a tour ... there

philosophy toward excellence a little bit, and we're going to need some dollars to do that."

It is unlikely these funds will be available, though. The 522 budget, from which athletics is almost entirely funded, as recommended to the student senate [see page 14] recently did not cover \$8,789 of requested facility rental funds.

Kickner suggested this could possibly lead to a restructuring of the programs, which might mean cutting a sport, although what is going to happen exactly will remain uncertain for the next few weeks.

And, at least this year, it seems the money game has not been playing out well for Green River - none of its teams have made it to the play-offs yet.

"It's a tough game, a tough game to play," said Kickner. "But we continue to offer the most diverse athletic program in the region, and we work hard supporting our athletes with the resources that are available to us."

Calendar

Men's baseball

- Mar 12 Wenatchee Valley - Green River, 1 or 4 p.m.
- Mar 13 Shoreline - Green River, 1 or 4 p.m.
- Mar 19 Green River - Vancouver Island, 2 or 5 p.m.
- Mar 20 Everett - Green River, TBA
- Mar 26 Columbia Basin - Green River, 11 a.m.
- Mar 26 Spokane - Green River, 2 p.m.
- Mar 27 Blue Mountain - Green River, 10 a.m.
- Mar 27 Walla Walla - Green River, 1 p.m.
- Apr 2 Centralia - Green River, noon or 3 p.m.
- Apr 3 Green River - Centralia, 1 or 4 p.m.
- Apr 9 Lower Columbia - Green River, 1 or 4 p.m.
- Apr 10 Green River - Lower Columbia, 1 or 4 p.m.

Women's fastpitch

- Mar 26 Edmonds - Green River, 1 p.m.
- Mar 26 Clark - Green River, 7 p.m.
- Mar 27 Olympic - Green River, 11 a.m.
- Mar 27 Lower Columbia - Green River, 3 p.m.
- Apr 1 Highline - Green River, 2 p.m.
- Apr 2 Pierce - Green River, 2 p.m.
- Apr 5 Green River - South Puget Sound, 1 p.m.
- Apr 8 Centralia - Green River, 3 p.m.
- Apr 9 Grays Harbor - Green River, noon

Men's golf

- Mar 14, Pacific Lutheran University Invitational,
- 15 Oakbrook Community College
- Mar 26, NWAACC #2, Pasco
- 27 Horn Rapids and Canyon Lakes
- Apr 10, NWAACC #3, Portland, OR
- 11 Heron Lakes Greenback / Great Blue

Men's tennis

- Apr 1 Green River - Skagit Valley, 3 p.m.
- Apr 8 Green River - Shoreline, 4 p.m.
- Apr 9 Green River - Treasure Valley, 10 a.m.

Women's tennis

- Apr 1 Green River - Skagit Valley, 3 p.m.
- Apr 8 Green River - Spokane, 1 p.m.
- Apr 9 Green River - Treasure Valley, 9 a.m.

You can find home game locations at www.greenriver.edu/athletics

Scoreboard

Women's basketball

- Feb 26 Green River 47 - 69 Lower Columbia

Men's basketball

- Feb 26 Green River 95 - 89 Lower Columbia

Men's baseball

- Mar 2 Green River 8 - 6 Olympic
- Mar 5 Vancouver Island 2 - 4 Green River
- Mar 5 Skagit Valley 2 - 3 Green River
- Mar 6 Green River 3 - 2 Bellevue

You can find full league results, team figures, standings and more at www.nwaacc.org

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Take a hike!

As the snow up on the mountains is slowly beginning to melt, more and more hikers will start hitting the trails again. It's time to dig in the closet or under your bed, dust off your boots and get ready for an adventure. From tranquil mountain lakes to panoramic views to the salty waters of the Hood Canal, here are five hikes - all of them round trips - to check out in Western Washington this spring and summer.

By: Megan Carter

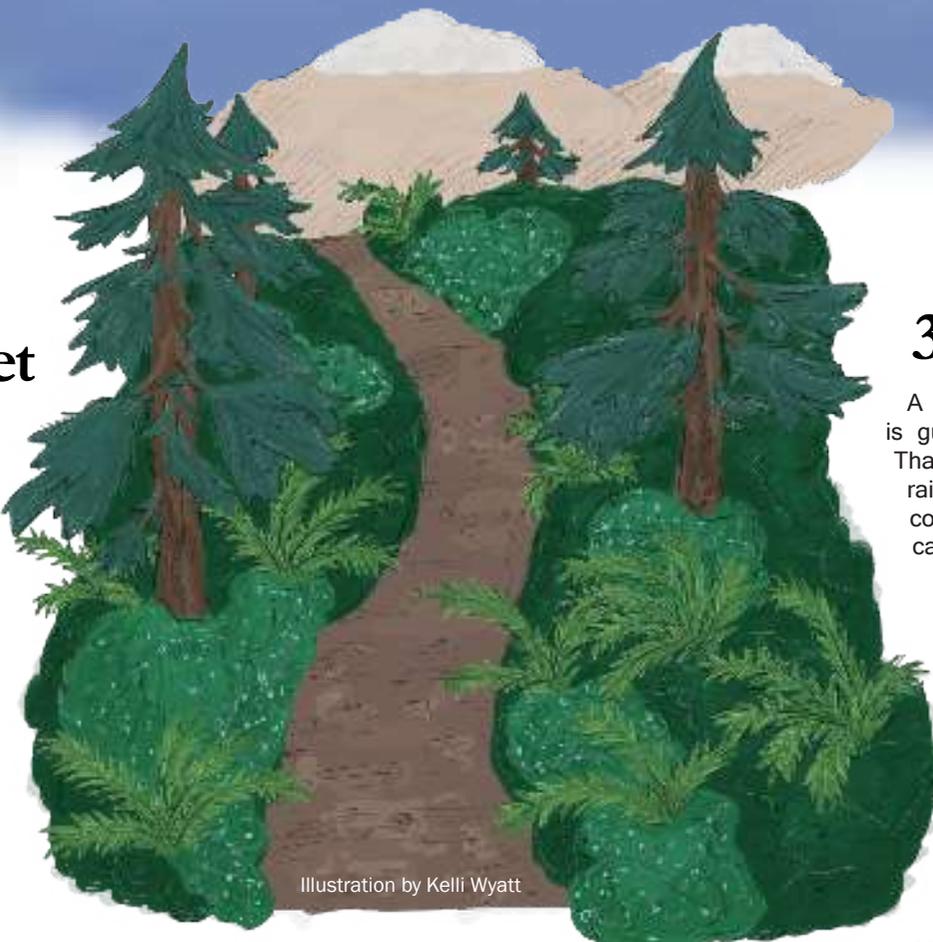


Illustration by Kelli Wyatt

Greenwater and Echo Lakes

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

14.0 miles +1600 feet

Although the distance appears intimidating and the elevation gain breathtaking (literally), the Greenwater and Echo Lakes trail is remarkably scenic. The soft, moss-rich trail makes the hiking easy on your feet, and is rarely crowded. The trail itself lacks the sweeping panoramic views many expect when hiking, but an abundant aged forest and cool, crystal-clear lakes make up for it. The hike up is challenging, but the serene views, potential wildlife, and the relaxing atmosphere of the deeply forested river valley are worth the sore legs the next day.



Note: a permit is required to hike this trail.

Twin Falls

Twin Falls State Park

3.0 miles +500 feet

A short hike great for beginners, Twin Falls is guaranteed to entertain year-round.

Thanks to the abundance of rain in the area, there is constantly a roaring cascade of frothy water. The trail starts out flat for the first mile following the South Fork Snoqualmie River. Along this flat, mossy stretch, you will find many nurse logs (fallen trees that act as nurseries for newly-sprouted trees and plants) and other forest formations. After one mile, you'll find a short spur trail to the right which leads to the humbling lower falls overlook. Due to the simplicity of the trail it is usually pretty crowded, but it is nevertheless a good place for the inexperienced to get their feet wet - both literally and figuratively speaking.



Carbon Glacier

Mt. Rainier National Park

6.5 miles +1000 feet

Along the trail featuring a frothy glacial river you'll find a wide variety of plants (and maybe animals), a suspended bridge that spans the Carbon River and sweeping views of Mt. Rainier. Being the lowest-elevation glacier in the lower 48 states, many inexperienced hikers mistake the glacier for another massive boulder. Whether you're hiking for the views or just for the overall experience, Carbon Glacier trail in Mt. Rainier National Park is sure to please - with few people to block your path.



Note: a permit is required to hike this trail.

Rattlesnake Ledge

Mt. Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest

4.5 miles +1160 feet

From the parking lot, the daunting rock face appears unconquerable. The trail includes a seemingly endless number of switchbacks that cut through an ancient forest on the hike over the rapids, but when the trees begin to clear and you are surrounded by precipitous rock face, you know you've made it to the top.



You will not find such panoramic views anywhere else this close to Seattle. When standing on top of that ledge you can not only see all of Rattlesnake Lake, but you will also find expansive views of nearby mountain passes and gaze down upon the cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie.

Such beautiful views do, at times, attract a bit of a crowd, though, so lovers of tranquility might want to stay away.

Steam Donkey Trail

Dosewallips State Park

3.5 miles +400 feet

Where the fresh water of the Dosewallips River meets the salty waters of the Hood Canal, you'll find Dosewallips State Park just off Highway 101. With optimum hiking in the spring months, the East Olympics have much to offer.

The Steam Donkey Trail is great for those looking to find some wildlife while still being able to hike a manageable trail. An elk herd resides in the area, and there is an abundance of birds in the park. It park also includes a short trail to the delta overlooking Hood Canal, where it is possible to see whales and seals from the observation area.



The trail is well-maintained, only slightly crowded, easy to follow, and designed with beginning hikers in mind.



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